

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus U.S. House of Representatives Jim Nussle, Chairman

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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation scheduled for the House floor

1 June 2004

### Week of 31 May 2004

#### **SUSPENSION CALENDAR**

1) Congratulating and Saluting Focus: HOPE on the Occasion of Its 35th Anniversary and for Its Remarkable Commitment and Contributions to Detroit, the State of Michigan, and the United States (H.Con.Res. 295).



This resolution has no budget implications.

2) Recognizing and Honoring the Firefighters, Police, Public Servants, Civilians, and Private Businesses Who Responded to the Devastating Fire in Richmond, Virginia, on March 26, 2004 (H.Res. 612).



This resolution has no budget implications.

3) Honoring the Tuskegee Airmen and Their Contribution in Creating an Integrated United States Air Force, the World's Foremost Air and Space Supremacy Force (H.Con.Res. 417).



This resolution has no budget implications.

4) Recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the Allied Landing at Normandy During World War II (H.J.Res. 93).



This resolution has no budget implications.

5) To Name the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic Located in Lufkin, Texas, as the "Charles Wilson Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic" (H.R. 4317).

This bill neither increases direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – nor reduces revenue.

6) Health, Safety, and Security of Peace Corps Volunteers Act of 2004 (H.R. 4060). This bill establishes in the Peace Corps four offices: an Office of the Ombudsman; an Office of Safety and Security; an Office of Medical Services; and an independent Inspector General. Of these, only the Office of the Ombudsman would be new; the other offices exist under more general authority. The bill also requires semiannual reports from the Ombudsman; a report on medical screening and placement of volunteers; and reports on work assignments. The bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

7) Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2004 (H.R. 4061).



This bill establishes in the U.S. Agency for International Development [USAID] a new Office for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children. The office would review and approve all assistance provided by USAID to

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PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. Also note: Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication, and conference reports may be brought up at any time.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and therefore may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

orphans and vulnerable children in developing countries, and coordinate all such assistance provided by other government agencies. The bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

8) Mount Rainier National Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 2003 (H.R. 265). This bill modifies the boundary of the Mount Rainier National Park in the State of Washington to include a noncontiquous area west of the existing park. The bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

## 9) To Reaffirm the Inherent Sovereign Rights of the Osage Tribe to Determine its Membership and Form of Government (H.R. 2912).

This bill enables the Osage Tribe to determine the tribe's membership roll and government rules in the same manner as other federally recognized tribes. In 1906, Congress enacted the Osage Allotment Act, which defined membership in the Osage Tribe. Osage Indians may be legal members of the tribe and participate in the tribal government only if they are lineal descendants of the original enrollees under the 1906 act, and own shares of the mineral revenue from the reservation. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

- 10) National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2003 (S. 1233). This bill authorizes the appropriation of \$15 million to the Department of Justice for a grant to expand the Great Blacks in Wax Museum and Justice Learning Center in Baltimore, MD. The bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.
- 11) Western Shoshone Claims Distribution Act (S. 618). This bill establishes procedures for distributing about \$143 million in judgment awards held in trust funds on behalf of the members of the Western Shoshone tribes. Under current law, the funds cannot be spent or distributed by the tribes until Congress approves a plan to allocate the funds. The tribes were awarded more than \$26 million in 1979 as compensation for the Federal Government's taking of tribal land in California and Nevada and the removal of minerals from that land. S. 618 would provide for payments to eligible members of the Western Shoshone tribes of the \$26 million, plus interest earned on that amount - a total of about \$143 million. Because these amounts were recorded in the budget at the time they were awarded, this measure has no affect on the Federal budget.
- 12) To Reauthorize Title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (H.R. 4409). This bill reauthorizes programs under title II of the Higher Education Act. These programs are currently authorized through 2004 by the General Education Provisions Act [GEPA], and this measure reauthorizes them through 2008. The bill also creates a new grant program for higher education institutions that have historically served minority populations, and authorizes these grants through 2008. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

# 13) To Amend Title VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to Ensure Graduate Opportunities in Postsecondary Education (H.R. 4411).

This bill reauthorizes programs under title VII of the Higher Education Act for the 2004-09 period. These programs would have expired at the end of fiscal year 2003, except for the automatic 1-year extension provided by GEPA. Programs under this title include the Javits Fellowship Program, Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need, and the Thurgood Marshall Legal Educational Opportunities program. The bill also repeals the authorization for the Urban Community Service program. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

## 14) To Provide for the Conveyance of the Real Property Located at 1081 West Main Street in Ravenna, Ohio (H.R. 3908).

This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

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**Budget Week** Page 2 15) Honoring the Contributions of the Women, Symbolized by "Rosie the Riveter," Who Served on the Homefront During World War II (H.Con.Res. 413).



This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

16) Simple Tax for Seniors Act (H.R. 4109). This bill allows eligible seniors, or their spouses



in the case of a joint return, with Social Security and pension income to use new Form 1040SR (similar to Form 1040EZ) to file their Federal income tax returns without regard to the amount of their taxable interest or other taxable income. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

17) Standards Development Organization Advancement Act of 2003 (H.R. 1086). This bill provides protections from antitrust laws to standards development organizations if they disclose the scope and nature of their activities to the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission. Standards development organizations are non-profits that plan, develop, establish, or coordinate voluntary consensus standards for use by industry and government. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

18) Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 2004 (H.R. 3866).



This bill expands the list of anabolic steroids regulated

by the Drug Enforcement Administration to include about two dozen new substances. The bill increases the maximum penalties, including imprisonment and fines, for the possession or distribution of steroids within 1,000 feet of a sports facility. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

#### LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States Regarding



the Appointment of Individuals to Fill Vacancies in the House of Representatives

(H.J.Res. 83).

Committee: Judiciary

H.J. Res. 83 would propose amending the Constitution to provide for the continuity of the Summary:

> House of Representatives if a majority of Members become unable to fulfill their responsibilities. For it to become effective, the legislatures of three-fourths of the States would need to ratify the proposed amendment within 7 years. By itself, this resolution

would have no impact on the Federal budget.

Cost: If the proposed amendment were approved by the States, the Federal Government could

incur administrative expenses to implement it, but such costs, if any, would be minimal.

H.J. Res. 83 does not affect direct spending or revenue.

**Budget Act:** This legislation does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

Back to Work Incentive Act of 2003 (H.R. 444). Bill:



Committee: Education and the Workforce

Summary: This bill authorizes the appropriation of \$3.6 billion for fiscal year 2004, and such sums as

> may be necessary thereafter. The bill creates a grant program to help States create personal reemployment accounts for individuals who are likely to exhaust their

unemployment compensation. These individuals could receive up to \$3,000 that could be used to assist with job training expenses or other employment-related needs, such as child care or transportation expenses. If an individual becomes employed within a certain

period of time, he or she may be eligible to keep the unspent amount as a bonus. At the

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**Budget Week** Page 3 option of the States, these funds may be used as cash assistance for individuals who have exhausted their right to unemployment compensation.

**Cost:** Because the amounts authorized by this bill – \$3.6 billion for fiscal year 2004, and such

sums as may be necessary thereafter – are subject to appropriations, the measure does

not increase direct spending.

**Budget Act:** This legislation does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

Prepared by ...... The Committee on the Budget

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